

Docket No.: M1401.0003/P003  
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Kiyoshi Imai, et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: N/A

Filed: HEREWITH

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: IMAGE RECOGNITION APPARATUS

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application to read as follows:

In the Specification

In the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3 (the title):

IMAGE RECOGNITION APPARATUS

In the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 7:

The present invention is related to an image recognition apparatus. In particular, the present invention is related to an image recognition (hereinbelow, referred to simply as a "recognition apparatus") apparatus for recognizing whether or not image data of a processing object includes a specific image in an image processing apparatus, image forming apparatus, image reading apparatus or the like.

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In the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 8:

It is an object of the present invention to provide an image recognition apparatus which makes it difficult to carry out analysis and alternation, and which makes it easy to update specific pattern data.

In the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 14:

The image recognition apparatus according to the present invention is a recognition apparatus equipped with an image recognition apparatus for preventing counterfeiting of bank notes and valuable securities, and is equipped with a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using dictionary data stored in a storage portion to determine whether or not said supplied image matches said dictionary data, and means for writing said dictionary data stored in said storage portion is erased at least at the time when the power is not on.

In the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 3:

Moreover, even in this type of arrangement which uses a rewriteable memory as the dictionary data memory, using the second embodiment as a base, as shown in Fig. 7, after the specific pattern data is written into the dictionary data memory 3 in accordance with the power being turned on (ST11, ST12), a confirmation of the connection state of the dictionary data memory 3 may be carried out (ST16), and then a determination of whether or not the recognition process will be executed may be carried out based on the confirmation results (ST17, ST18).

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In the Claims

1. An image recognition apparatus for preventing counterfeiting of bank notes and valuable securities, comprising:

a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using dictionary data stored in a storage portion to determine whether or not said supplied image matches said dictionary data; and

means for writing said dictionary data into said storage portion;

wherein said dictionary data stored in said storage portion is erased at least at the time when the power is not on.

2. The image recognition apparatus of claim 1, wherein said storage portion is constructed from a volatile memory, and wherein the erasing of said dictionary data is carried out automatically in accordance with the cutting off of the power supply.

3. The image recognition apparatus of claim 1, wherein said storage portion is constructed from a rewriteable memory, and further comprising means for erasing said dictionary data stored in said storage portion at a prescribed timing.

4. The image recognition apparatus of any one of claim 1 through claim 3, further comprising means for monitoring the connection status of said storage portion.

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### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant files this preliminary amendment to include the Article 34 amendments filed in this matter in the PCT.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: April 4, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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In the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 14:

The image recognition apparatus according to the present invention is a recognition apparatus equipped with [a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using dictionary data stored in a storage portion, and is equipped with] an image recognition apparatus for preventing counterfeiting of bank notes and valuable securities, and is equipped with a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using dictionary data stored in a storage portion to determine whether or not said supplied image matches said dictionary data, and means for writing said dictionary data stored in said storage portion is erased at least at the time when the power is not on.

In the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 3:

Moreover, even in this type of arrangement which uses a rewriteable memory as the dictionary data memory, using the [third]second embodiment as a base, as shown in Fig. 7, after the specific pattern data is written into the dictionary data memory 3 in accordance with the power being turned on (ST11, ST12), a confirmation of the connection state of the dictionary data memory 3 may be carried out (ST16), and then a determination of whether or not the recognition process will be executed may be carried out based on the confirmation results (ST17, ST18).

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Amended Claims:

1. [A recognition apparatus equipped with a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using dictionary data stored in a storage portion, comprising:]

An image recognition apparatus for preventing counterfeiting of bank notes and valuable securities, comprising:

a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using dictionary data stored in a storage portion to determine whether or not said supplied image matches said dictionary data; and

means for writing said dictionary data into said storage portion;

wherein said dictionary data stored in said storage portion is erased at least at the time when the power is not on.

2. The image recognition apparatus of claim 1, wherein said storage portion is constructed from a volatile memory, and wherein the erasing of said dictionary data is carried out automatically in accordance with the cutting off of the power supply.

3. The image recognition apparatus of claim 1, wherein said storage portion is constructed from a rewriteable memory, and further comprising means for erasing said dictionary data stored in said storage portion at a prescribed timing.

4. The image recognition apparatus of any one of claim 1 through claim 3, further comprising means for monitoring the connection status of said storage portion.